

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY KABUL

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 085194

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FOR AMBASSADOR FROM AUSTRIAN

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SCUL, AF

SUBJECT: AMERICAN ARCHEOLOGISTS

REF: STATE 044199

1. THE SMITHSONIAN APPARENTLY HAS NOW DECIDED THAT INVOLVEMENT IN FACILITATING THE WORK OF AMERICAN ARCHEOLOGISTS IN AFGHANISTAN WOULD BE IN THE INSTITUTION'S, AS WELL AS THE ACADEMIC COMMUNITY'S, BEST INTERESTS. A COMMITTEE, ON WHICH TROUSDALE IS SERVING, IS DRAFTING A PROPOSAL WHICH I HOPE TO BE ABLE TO CARRY TO KABUL.

2. IT IS UNCLEAR AS YET HOW FAR THE SMITHSONIAN IS WILLING TO GO. ACCORDING TO TROUSDALE, THEY ARE WILLING TO ORGANIZE A ROTATING COMMITTEE OF RECOGNIZED SCHOLARS TO REVIEW PROPOSALS FOR EXPEDITIONS TO AFGHANISTAN. THIS COMMITTEE WOULD ADVISE THE INDIVIDUAL ARCHEOLOGIST AND THE GOA ON THE MERITS OF PROPOSED RESEARCH AND WOULD STEER AMERICAN SCHOLARS TOWARDS WORK IN WHICH THE AFGHAN GOVERNMENT HAS AN INTEREST.

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3. THE SMITHSONIAN'S LAWYERS ARE UNWILLING, HOWEVER, TO

ASSUME ANY LEGAL OBLIGATION FOR INDIVIDUALS UNCONNECTED
WITH THE INSTITUTION. THEY ARE TRYING TO COME UP WITH

SOME LANGUAGE WHICH WILL SATISFY THE AFGHANS, WHILE
LEAVING RESPONSIBILITY FOR FULFILLING CONTRACTUAL
OBLIGATIONS SOLELY WITH THE ARCHEOLOGIST CONDUCTING THE
RESEARCH.

4. BELIEVE WE SHOULD DEFER ANY ACTION ON UNO'S OFFER
UNTIL WE CAN DETERMINE WHETHER THE SMITHSONIAN'S
PROPOSAL WILL BE ACCEPTABLE TO THE GOA. SISCO

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